

3-18-04 atents

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re A	Application of:	)	
Kazus	shige Yonenaga, et al.	)	
		) Art Unit: 2665	
Application No. <b>09/496,974</b> )		)	
		) Examiner: Hsu, Alpus	
Filed:	February 2, 2000	)	RECEIVED
For:	Precoding Circuit And	)	MAR 0 9 2004
	Precoding-Multiplexing Circuit For	)	MAIL O D EGO.
	Realizing Very High Transmission	)	<b>Technology Center 2600</b>
	Rate In Optical Fiber Communication	)	
	I he	arehy certify that this correspondence	a is hoins

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 1, 2004.

Robert E. Richards - Reg. No. 29,105

## **FIRST RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office action dated August 29, 2003 in the patent application identified above, please enter the following amendments and reconsider the application in view of the appended remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

A request for three-month extension of time accompanies this response.